

Venezuela is a small turnip out of which everybody seems to want blood.

The trunkmakers have formed a trust, thus tightening the grip of the octopus.

The Atchison Globe says the chafing dish is only a frying pan that has broken into society.

Toledo, Ohio, is bragging of quadruplets born in that city last Saturday. Now, Chicago!

When a man goes crazy for love the girl can avoid trouble only by moving away and leaving no address.

J. Hickory Wood is the name of one of the playwrights. We can't understand why he should cling to the J.

A Chicago ordinance forbids barbers talking while at work. There are not enough soldiers in Illinois to enforce this law.

More than 66,000,000 germs inhabit a single adult oyster. They're a bit small, but they seem to be mighty good to eat.

A captious contemporary complains that "Kocian is bowlegged." Well, would he fiddle any better if he were knock-kneed?

Prof. Delitzsch of Berlin says that Moses was a plagiarist. Would that we had more of this quality of plagiarism nowadays.

Constabulary Inspector Fletcher, who killed eleven bolomen that attacked him, is the sort of man to establish permanent peace in the Philippines.

When the wireless telephone comes along the belated husband will have a fine time dodging. He will be forced to dig a hole in the ground or quit the earth.

A bill has been introduced in the Missouri legislature prohibiting the playing of football. Now watch what the rush line will do with this wonderful measure.

President Wilson of Princeton opposes mass play in football. How about the mass play in business, on which we remember having heard one or two criticisms?

A Michigan man who is rich went crazy the other day and started in to eat up his money. Pity the sorrows of the man who has it and knows he can't take it with him.

Uncle Russell Sage's unexpected call upon his office employees who thought he was ill proves that the ancient millionaire is something of a humorist in a quiet way.

King Edward's daughter is in love with Joseph Chamberlain's son, but can't marry him because of the social gulf between them. Edward might help by making Joey a duke.

Carnegie's life motto, "Thine own reproach alone do fear," must be considered excellent. It is the ruling principle with a good many trust magistrates and they get along wonderfully well.

A Minnesota man committed suicide a few days ago because he was home-ly. He should have gone to Massachusetts. There are women down there who don't mind a little thing like that.

A Kansas City man left home a week ago with \$165 in his pocket, for the purpose of buying a drink. He has not yet returned and it is believed that he succeeded in his purpose at least once.

A Cleveland surgeon announces, as though it were a thing to be proud of, that he kept a dog alive ten hours after cutting its head off. What a grand, ennobling, humanizing thing is vivisection!

Regarding the New York woman who has just sued a friend for \$2,000 damages for alienating her dog's affections, we will contribute the powder and shot if some one else will furnish the gun.

Bottled grape juice is the latest sure kill for the typhoid germ. Gradually but surely we are getting back to the old "bug juice" remedy which our forefathers apiled to all ailments, including snake bites.

"The fact that there seems to be nothing between Sue and young Jackson," said Pater to Mater, after a glance into the dimly-lighted parlor. "Only confirms my suspicion that they are either engaged or ought to be."

A Jersey City merchant, after experimenting with hypnotism, Christian Science and the faith cure, announces that he can once more "think in a straight line." The phrase should live.

Boston's transcendental philosophy has withstood the strain of coal shortage, but a threatened bean famine is too much for its esoteric equanimity.

Does Jenkin Lloyd Jones want this nation made completely dyspeptic? His demand for young women who can make pie and cake is alarming.

The ODD CORNER

The Street.
If time should lag and pleasure pall
And life seem dull and incomplete,
With open eyes and ears and heart,
Just stroll along some city street.
A thousand interests, you'll find
Are lying at your very feet:
Life's comedies and tragedies
Enacted on the crowded street.
In drama, with a smile or tear
Of ready sympathy, you greet
The very scenes that every day
Are passed unheeded in the street.
And characters which, true to life,
Afford in books the greatest treat,
Are but the prototype of those
Who pass you hourly on the street.
All human joys and sorrows touch,
All races, sects, and classes meet
And mingle in a common world,
On that great middle ground, the street.

Clocks Visible at Night.
It is easy to tell the time on the average public clock during the day,



but very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to tell it during the night, and for this reason a suggestion which has been made in a foreign scientific journal is of interest. The first of the two accompanying pictures show a clock as it appears at night and the second picture shows the clock as it should appear. In the first picture the figures showing the hours are very faint and the two hands are quite indistinct. In the second picture no figures are visible, and there is only one hand, but, as will be seen, the claim is made that a dial of this kind will indicate the time correctly and clearly, even on the darkest night. Many public clocks are now illuminated, but experience shows that such illumination does not tend to make them as clearly visible as they should be, partly owing to the shadow of the heavy framework. A French scientist suggests as an improvement, first, that the dial shall be darkened at night; second, that the hour hand shall be brilliantly lighted with white or green light, and, third, that each hour shall be marked by a luminous red point, instead of by the hour hand. He also says that the present vertical position of public clocks is utterly erroneous, and that they ought to be inclined downward, as they could then be seen much more easily. Finally, he points out that only a few changes are necessary to bring about this improvement, and that it is ridiculous in our age to have in our cities costly clocks which the of very little use except during the hours of the day.

A Cat's Long Journey.
A family once left Swanley, Kent, and went to Dedham, near Colchester, Essex, taking with them two cats. A few days after their arrival at Dedham one of the cats disappeared and it was not seen again for six days, when it turned up at the old home at Swanley. The distance from Dedham to Swanley is about eighty miles. How the cat crossed the Thames is a matter still to be explained. "Pussy" beyond being a good deal thinner, was none the worse for its long journey.—London Answers.



This is a facsimile of a passage from the oldest known version of the Gospels.

The Coolest of Fakirs.
Describing the Simsbury (Connecticut) fair, the Hartford Courant says the fakirs were many, and their devices to catch the unwary were varied, but one fellow outdid the rest, and did the crowd handsomely. His only apparatus was an unblinking cheek and a nimble tongue. His style was much like this: "Now, who will give me a dollar? Ah, thank you, I have one. Now, who will give me the next dollar?" and so it went on for a few minutes, the crowd which gathered being anxious to see what new scheme he had up his sleeve. After he had gathered in twenty-seven dollars, and the crowd began to look pretty well squeezed, he said: "Well, now, gentlemen, you deliberately give me this money to do what I please with it? I can buy a present for my wife or

smoke it up? Yes?" and the crowd nodded assent or remained silent while the fakir jammed the twenty-seven dollars into his pocket, saying: "Thank you, gentlemen; I will be here at nine o'clock in the morning." Perhaps he was.

Hand-to-Hand Fight with Bear.
The other day, while George Anderson was walking back to flag any trains that might be following the one he was with, on the South Fork branch of the Pennsylvania railroad near Scalp Level, Altoona, Pa., he heard some one walking along behind him. Thinking it was a tramp, who was about to hold him up, he turned suddenly to find himself confronted by a black bear walking with its hind legs and with its paws outstretched to grab him. Desperate from fright, he brought his brake pin into play, knocking bruin down. He then pounded the prostrate brute into a state of coma, after which he cut its throat. Summoning the other members of the crew he carried the carcass to the train and took it to Altoona. The bear weighed 150 pounds.

Some Odd Resemblances.
Odd resemblances to various objects, which can only be regarded as accidental coincidences, are presented by a number of fungi, says the Rev. A. S. Wilson in Knowledge. There is the Jew's ear fungus, which grows on stumps of the elder, and is so named from its unmistakable likeness to a human ear. The geasters are curiously like starfish; aserbe has an extraordinary resemblance both in form and color to a sea anemone; equally remarkable is the likeness to a bird's nest seen in species of crucibulum, cyathus and nidularia. The most of these are too small to impose on one; the resemblance is singularly exact, and a large specimen might almost pass for the nest of some small bird, the eggs being admirably represented by the little oval fruits of the fungus.

Indian Headman.
Nowhere is to be found a more pompous or a more awe-inspiring person than the headman, who plays in India the role which the official hangman plays in a European city. His deadly work he performs with great skill, and in his bearing there is a certain dignity which is never seen in a European hangman. Moreover, while in Europe, the populace regards a hangman with a feeling which is partly



contempt and partly horror, the people of India respect and fear the public executioner, and never seem to think that he has lowered himself in the social scale by accepting the office of headman. On festive occasions, and when arrayed in his robes of office, the executioner is decidedly a picturesque figure, and altogether different from the somber and grim hangman of Europe.

Pays High Price for Beauty.
A well-known English woman pays \$4,000 a year to be made beautiful. Her treatment lasts from six to seven hours every day. She is kept in a bath for one hour, and a dark room for four, and for the remainder is bandaged from head to foot in chemical preparations.

Queer Method of Suicide.
"A man once cut his throat with the picture of his mother," is the comment of Roland B. McIlreux on the reason for one of the regulations in the "death house" at Sing Sing.

Odd Items from Everywhere.
The temperature of a swallow's body is extraordinarily high, no less than 112 Fahrenheit.

Herr Noll of Berlingen in Germany has made a clock warranted to go 9,000 years without winding.

Garfish, sunfish, harking sharks and dolphins all have the habit of swimming with their eyes above the surface of the water.

In a recent test a quarter-inch bar of steel did not break till 8,332 pounds were put upon it, but a bar of iron of the same diameter bore 4,504 pounds only.

The gulf stream is 200 fathoms deep off Cape Florida. Near Cape Hatteras the depth is only half as great, the stream appearing to have run uphill, with an ascent of ten inches to the mile.

The most valuable statue in the world is that of the god Diabutsu, in Yokohama, Japan. It is sixty-three and one-half feet high, weighs 450 tons and contains 500 pounds weight of pure gold.

Fencing Aids Women to Retain Their Youth

New York Master of the Sword Tells of the Advantages to Be Derived from a Constant Use of the Foils—The Beginning of the Art.

"It makes the woman beautiful," the fencing master was saying as he fastened the top button of his white jacket. "It is like the medicine of the advertisement. It makes the fat lean and puts flesh on the thin ones. The American woman finds that it is not a fad, but the most beneficial form of exercise."

"Have I married off many of my pupils? What a question. I do not



Public Salutes.
like to claim too much, yet I must tell you that only yesterday I got a letter from one pupil now living in San Francisco. It is a card. She is married. And to-day when one of my pupils came—she had been here three times a week for six months—I noticed on her finger a new solitaire. Of course I do not ask her—I guess that she is engaged. Has not the brighter eyes, the clearer skin and added grace that fencing gives had a share in this?

"There was Miss Lillian Russell. She had grown to such a size that the critics of the theater were casting sly jokes at her. She comes to me. 'Take it off,' she says, and a season of fencing reduced her thirty-two pounds. When she goes back to the stage all the young and the old, the near and the dear say, 'My! she is a young girl again. It is fencing that does it.'"

"One must not give up the hearty dinner or the little supper after theater if one will try the foils two or three times a week."

"No other kind of physical exercise offers at one time so many advantages. It keys every part of the human mechanism, legs, arms, hands, every muscle, the internal organs and senses, all work harmoniously. Each is a factor in the fencer."

"I have 170 pupils in fencing and only twenty of them are men. The benefits of the exercise are now realized by the women of New York who need exercise for itself or for the improvement of a weakened constitution. By the activity of the exercise fat women reduce themselves, while the healthy development of a thin woman brings flesh to her bones."

Fencing masters are now in great demand at the physical development schools patronized by women in society. A well-developed and healthy interest in fencing is shown among men also. Large classes are conducted at the New York Athletic club and the Fencers' club in Fifth Avenue and at the numerous private schools.

Fencing may be traced back in a vague way to the time when adventures armed with sword in mortal combat trusted more to strength, agility and a quick eye than to any established principles of attack and defense. It took many generations before fencing practical men sifted experience



Feinting as an Anti-Fat.
into a code of warfare. The change of arms used by the combatants has effected a change in methods.

The middle ages was the period of heavy blows with bludgeons. Victory usually fell to him who hit hardest. Until the invention of gunpowder and the introduction of the lead bullet, when steel armor ceased to be an ef-

fectual protector of the body, the knight knew little of the modern art of fencing. Combats between men mounted on horses were determined often by the strength of their armor, and secondarily by their material strength.

In those days the lower classes were barred from tournaments and feats of arms, but in their private schools burghers sought proficiency with the sword. With the discarding of armor the superiority of the point was seen and there the art of fencing properly began.

Then a sword, lighter and stronger than the one formerly used, came into vogue. The weapon was easy to manage and well suited to the custom of going afoot, as many gentlemen of the cloak then traveled. The devising of cunning thrusts and strokes began at that time. It was usual, too, to employ a dagger as an auxiliary to the sword, so that fencing methods were necessarily different.

Later, the dagger fell into disuse, and the court sword came into fashion as a part of the apparel of all gentlemen. At about this time two schools of fencing, the French and the Italian schools, were formed in Europe and these two styles survive to-day.

"The French style, which had the advantage of royal protection, is accepted to-day as the better of the two schools," said the fencing master, "surely I, Ricardo Manrique, would teach no other. As an exercise it is more beneficial than the Italian method, which requires a stiff arm and a tense grasp of the foil."

Let the Italian have his circular flourishes, which waste energy and give his opponent a signal before each thrust. The French style, using the shortest route for each thrust, keeping a supple arm, wrist and fingers, is far superior. It has been demonstrated again and again.

Not long ago the Italian champion challenged the French champion to a duel to prove that his style was wrong and he a fakir. The Italian was wounded in his sword arm. The Frenchman made manifest the superiority of his school.

It is the French school that is taught generally in the New York



Discussing Their Matrimonial Opportunities.

schools. The women seem to prefer it to the Italian style.

Among the men who have taken up fencing the number of doctors is noteworthy. They agree that it is an exercise bringing all the muscles into play and yet not exhausting or necessarily violent, like horseback riding, and many of them recommend it to their women patients whose nervous organizations need toning up.—New York Sun.

FIGURES ON LONDON TRAFFIC.

Enormous Number of Passengers Who Use Conveyances.

The immensity of London traffic is curiously illustrated by an article which appears in a recent issue of the Light Railway and Tramway Journal. It is stated that the number of suburban trains running in and out of London daily is no fewer than 7,475, of which 1,600 belong to the Great Eastern.

The passengers they carry is estimated at about 2,000,000, and the statistician who is responsible for the article proves by calculations which appear to be perfectly plausible that over 607,000,000 passengers have to be carried per annum.

He estimates that about 30,000,000 are carried by cabs, 10,000,000 by private vehicles, and an equal number by Thames steamboats and the grand total of passengers carried annually is 1,900,000,000.

Such figures are possibly not quite accurate, but they are sufficiently near to give an idea of the immense traffic that has to be dealt with in London. Often enough we grumble about the condition of the streets, and the difficulty experienced in getting from place to place, but, considering the unparalleled concourse of people that have been brought together in the capital of Great Britain, the greatest wonder is that locomotion should be possible at all.

Kansas Notes

A Humboldt girl who ran away and joined a theatrical company is in great luck. She was given transportation home when the show reached Joplin.

So many Kansas towns have bored for gas and oil, or intend to bore, that such items may safely be excluded on the ground that they have ceased to be news.

Neodesha is so wide open that police protection is given to a young man who sings "The Holy City" and "Hello, Central, Give Me Heaven" at entertainments.

"Evangelist" Oliver, who is holding services in Topeka, recently prayed that God would "either convert or kill the present mayor." He also describes the city officials as "the dirtiest puppets this side of hell."

"What is there about the district court," asks the Howard Courant, "that draws so many loafers? Big able-bodied men will sit in the court room hour after hour, listening to evidence and tedious testimony of witnesses, in cases in which they have not the least interest, or knowledge of. What is there in it to interest them?"

What the Globe calls "squirrel poker" has been introduced in Atchison. When a player makes a noise with his chips, to bet, the other players all disappear, as a squirrel at a hole does when the hunter raises his gun.

An industrial school for negroes in Quindaro has asked the legislature for an appropriation of \$28,000. It is a good school engaged in a good work, but not excessively modest.

John Fulcher, the champion slumberer of Wyandotte, has been defeated again. Mrs. Mehala Cross, an aged negro woman in Cherokee county, slept eight days and eight nights.

It is told as a true story that John Chapman of Galena fell down a twenty-foot tramway at the Blind Tiger mine and dislocated his shoulder. He went home and stumbled down the cellar steps, and in falling his shoulder was thrown back into place. He took a drink and returned to work.

Mamie Taylor, of Iola, who could not help it because a seductive mixed drink was named in her honor, brought a suit for divorce last week.

For once Mrs. Nation was right. When she alighted from a train in Chanute last week she snatched a cigarette out of the mouth of a little boy.

Hens belonging to a Wellsville man have taken to laying eggs in a neighbor's barn, and the two men, both being thrifty and frugal, have gone to law to decide the ownership of the eggs.

Convicts in the state penitentiary already mine coal and make binding twine, and it is proposed to make them build roads and manufacture brooms and other things.

Social note in the Brown County World: The following Hiawatha young men assisted the show company, which was in Hiawatha the latter part of last week: "Bill" Hatch, "Onion" Davis, "Chick" McQuary and "Ted" Humphries. They flocked to the stage whenever a crowd was needed, acting the part of superns.

A railroad laborer working in Wallace county as a section hand was killed a few days ago, and was found to have \$2,056 concealed in his clothes. He had saved it during sixteen years working at the poorest paid job in the railroad service.

An Emporia girl was married last week. During the last seven days before the ceremony, the Gazette estimates, she was the guest of honor at five parties, ate a peck of salad, drank a keg of coffee, stood on her feet twenty hours, walked 100 miles, let the dressmaker paw her over thirty hours and packed and unpacked her trunk twelve times. When she was married they remarked she "looked pale."

"Our postmaster," says the Phillipsburg Post, was in a quandary a few days ago. A letter came addressed to Mrs. L. Halbert and he did not know to whom to give it. Mrs. T. J. Halbert's name is Louisa; Mrs. H. E. Halbert's name is Louisa; Mrs. W. T. Halbert's name is Louisa; Mrs. E. M. Halbert's name is Louisa; Mrs. Earl Halbert's name is Lulu. The postmaster said it was probably intended for the whole family, so he gave it to T. J. Halbert, the head of the family, and asked him to take it home and fight it out among themselves.

The ground hog is not a myth. Three of them were captured in Lincoln last week before they could accustom their eyes to the glare of the sun.

The fog was so dense in Wellington Wednesday morning that one of the papers declares the annexation of the Philippine islands has changed the climate of Kansas.

A recent visitor in Topeka protests that Cliff Baker's street cars are so short hat when the conductor wants to borrow a chew of tobacco from the motorman he reaches around the outside instead of going through the car.

Mr. Bayse of the Belleville Telescope has a "vitriolic pen." In replying to a Scandia paper which criticized Republic county's representative Bayse said: "From time immemorial it has been customary for ants and fleas and flies and fools, scoundrels and scallawags and skunks, Januses, Jackasses and Judases, lizards, leeches and lice to assail mankind in general. The Ladies' Home Journal is telling how to build a home on a salary of \$60 a month. The Atchison Globe says to pay \$400 cash for the lot and borrow \$1,790 on it at 7 per cent.